

National Service Impact in Texas

AmeriCorps

American YouthWorks' Texas Conservation Corps (TxCC) is a jobs training and national service program that allows young adults to serve their community while learning valuable skills in the field. In 2013-14, TxCC's 20-AmeriCorps member Emergency Response Team, funded by OneStar Foundation, played a critical role in six major disaster deployments across Texas and the nation, including Hurricane Sandy (NY/NJ), West Fertilizer Plant Explosion (TX), Oklahoma Tornadoes (OK), Eagle Pass Flooding (TX), Alaska's Yukon River Flooding (AK), and Central Texas Halloween Floods (TX). By combining emergency response with natural resource conservation, TxCC Emergency Response Team AmeriCorps members are able to address the environmental and community problems and implement real time solutions. Members serve 11 months and receive training in Incident Command, Wilderness First Aid, Volunteer and Donations Management, and Leave No Trace among other conservation and disaster functions. As a response resource for the state of Texas, they are available within 24 hours and each team can deploy for up to two months at a time.

AmeriCorps NCCC

The Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems (CMPBS), established in 1975, is a nonprofit education, research, and demonstration organization specializing in life cycle planning and design. CMPBS undertakes projects based on their potential contribution to sustainability and human health. CMPBS received funding to construct a prototype small sustainable village. AmeriCorps NCCC members learned how to plan and build all the components of a sustainable village. They built three houses and then tested this sustainable village prototype. They helped assess its performance in disaster areas. The team's experience was recorded and will be used as a training tool for future groups.

AmeriCorps VISTA

Cornerstone Assistance Network is an intermediary agency which supports 16 partner organizations with AmeriCorps VISTA sites throughout Texas. The VISTA team raised more than \$180,000 in grants and secured four property donations valued at \$195,000 which has assisted GED scholarship programs, area revitalizations, and job training internship programs for 50 interns. Tarrant Literacy Coalition, a partner site, launched a program that trained 80 people and gave away more than \$8,000 worth of materials for a summer learning conference in ESL and citizenship class instruction. The Charitable Clinic initiated its first Community Awareness Program and increased inquiries from the professional community and raised \$7,000 in revenue enabling low-income community members to get free and suitable health care.

Senior Corps

The Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston served 131,988 veterans in 2012, with 50,191 being 65 years or older. In recent years, there has been an increase in admission of younger veterans from the Gulf Wars leaving fewer volunteers to support the older veterans. In response, Harris County Senior Companion volunteers, sponsored by the Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center of Houston, serve older veterans in hospice care, veterans in home base care, and veterans living in the aging ward. In 2012, 54 veterans received daily visits and support services from Senior Companion volunteers. Ninety percent of the veterans served reported that they felt less isolated due to the regular interactions with Senior Companion volunteers and 80 percent documented a reduction in the side effects of depression as a result of the daily visits from their Senior Companion volunteers.

Social Innovation Fund

The Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), an intermediary grantee of the Social Innovation Fund, is growing Financial Opportunity Centers – a workforce development and asset-building model that boosts earnings, reduces expenses and coaches low-income families on how to make better financial decisions – to reach 7,500 total participants. In Texas, LISC has three nonprofit subgrantees receiving total annual grants of \$569,000 which they match dollar-for-dollar. A rigorous evaluation will provide greater evidence about the model's impact on employment, earnings and savings.

Volunteer Generation Fund

OneStar Foundation, the Texas State Service Commission, continued its work on the Texas Volunteer Generation Project, which focuses on building the capacity of volunteer connector organizations to enhance volunteer impact and tackle critical social issues. In 2013-14, OneStar partnered with the Texas Association of Volunteer Centers to host seven regional symposiums across the state facilitated by national and regional experts on volunteer engagement as well as a 12-hour virtual service jam. During the service jam, 10 experts on volunteerism led conversations on "Growing Through Serving," "Best Practices in Short Term Volunteer Engagement," "Innovations in Short Term Service," "The Impact of Service" and more. Two hundred registrants across the country participated in the event.